



Climate Smart Kingston Commission
420 Broadway
Kingston, NY 12401
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Minutes to the Climate Smart Kingston Commission September 26, 2016
Kingston City Hall, Council Chambers 4:30-6:00 PM

Commission Members (Voting): Azriel Alleyne, Elizabeth Broad, Pat Courtney Strong, Michael D'Arcy, Emilie Hauser, Nick Hvozda, Kevin McEvoy (Secretary via conference call), Sarina Pepper, Karen Sullivan, John Wackman

Commission Members (Non-Voting):

Nolan Bastianelli (not present), Casey Schwarz (excused), Amanda LaValle (Ulster County Dept of the Environment; excused)

Ex-Officio Members: Suzanne Cahill (Kingston Planning Dept. excused), Brenna Robinson (Kingston Community & Economic Development-excused), Julie Noble (Kingston Parks & Recreation, Commission Chairperson), NYS Assembly Member Kevin Cahill represented by Jillian Nodiak, Kingston Common Council (not present), Kingston City Engineer (not present), Joe Chenier (Kingston Dept of Public Works)

- I. Welcome Guests and Public Comment:** The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 4:36PM
- II. Review and Approval August 2016 Meeting Minutes:** Tabled
- III. Old Business**
 - a. Clean Energy Communities Program Launch, Newburgh: 9-28.** Commissioner Patrice Courtney Strong will be presenting. Kingston will prioritize new actions including: green fleet and either passing the unified solar permit or the energy code and already has Climate Smart Certification and has completed a Solarize campaign.
 - b. Energy and Renewables**
 - i. Residential Energy Efficiency Campaign Working Group (*M. D'Arcy*):** Commissioner Mike D'Arcy gave a report about a recent energy efficiency workshop. The working group is to meet shortly.
 - ii. Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory/Energy Tracking Working Group (*N. Hvozda*):** Commissioner Nick Hvozda gave a thorough report on municipal greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory with Energy Tracking Data charts presented and reviewed showing 2010 vs. 2015 data with respect to consistency with the Climate Action Plan. The Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory working group met with the City Comptroller, John Tuey, and gained access to the city's energy accounting databases for the past 5 years. This is information that the city compiles for its Annual Financial Report to New York State. From this we were able to compare usage of five energy sources to the numbers from the 2010 government operations greenhouse gas inventory that was completed for the Climate Action Plan (CAP). The numbers did not match exactly, but it was close enough to gain useful information about our progress toward the CAP 2020 goals. Information by category was reported as follows:
Electricity: Usage is above the CAP goal trend line, but is decreasing.

Natural Gas: Usage is above the CAP goal trend line, and is increasing since 2012. This is partially attributable to a conversion of all remaining heating oil facilities to Natural Gas fuel.

Heating Oil: The city is no longer using heating oil after 2014.

Fleet Gasoline: Usage is above the CAP goal line and remaining roughly the same year to year.

Fleet Diesel Fuel: Usage is above the CAP goal line and increasing slightly. The next step is to compare overall greenhouse gas emissions levels from city government operations and look for areas of improvement.

- iii. **Wendell Flex Tech Study Review** (*A. Alleyne*): Commissioner Azriel Alleyne reported that the largest consumption of energy is from the water treatment plant and recommends facility upgrades that would increase efficiency. Specifically, the motors need to be changed out. Funding could come from NYSERDA's existing facilities program. Air sealing and retrofitting all municipal buildings would result in significant savings.
- iv. **Municipal Street Light Consortium** (*P. Courtney Strong*): Commissioner Courtney Strong reported that a third of electricity use comes from streetlights and switching to LEDs will result in 65% savings. The LED Streetlight Consortium is mailing 241 municipalities to survey them about streetlight conversion. Krista Micelli just finished an inventory of Town of Ulster. In NYC, Con Edison angered residents by installing LEDs that were too bright for the residential streets. In Scarsdale, they did a thorough review of the different types of lights before installing them. Utilities are not making it easy for municipalities to convert. Kingston will put out an RFP to complete LED conversion. For more information: www.nystreetlights.org Patrice Courtney Strong has a webinar available on her site.
- v. **NYS Solar Permitting Progress** (*M. D'Arcy/P. Courtney Strong/K. McEvoy*): Mike D'Arcy compiled a list of complaints by contractors about the Unified Solar Permit in an effort to create an improved version. Commissioners Mike D'Arcy and Kevin McEvoy are going to talk offline about questions related to the solar permit in order to address contractor issues and Landmarks Commissions and Heritage Area Commission concerns.
- vi. **CCA Working Group Update** (*B. Broad*): Commissioner Betta Broad gave a report and will send a draft of document discussed by the working group.
- c. **Land Use and Transportation**
 - i. **Zoning Code Recommendations Review** (*S. Pepper*): Commissioner Sarina Pepper sent out comments for review. Commissioner Kevin McEvoy will follow up: (1) with Jennifer Schwartz Berky regarding Urban Agriculture portion which she may do separately with a different partner; (2) with Pace on revised scope to include CAP matters of interest plus zoning matters concerning open space and natural resource scope with urban agriculture deleted (3) with Planning Dept.
 - ii. **Natural Resources Inventory Update** (*J. Noble*): Chairperson Julie Noble provided an update from meeting with John Mickelson consultant for the project who is doing an evaluation and recommendation for a future open space plan. Kingston Land Trust is also involved.
 - iii. **Electric Vehicle Infrastructure** (*A. LaValle*): Chairperson Julie Noble provided a report on locations for electric vehicle infrastructure. PACE funding may be possible. Ulster County (Department of the Environment) is leading NYS in the number of EV charging stations installed. Currently, they are working on a county-wide RFP to assist towns and cities in installing charging stations. Most recently, the town of Wawarsing put in new charging stations. Kingston will prioritize a new charging station in the Rondout neighborhood, most likely under the 9W bridge near

the public bathrooms in Gallo Park subject to sea level rise considerations. The City of Kingston leases the public parking lots from the DOT so installing a charging station there might be difficult.

d. Vehicles

- i. **Municipal EV Purchases Update-** another! (*J. Noble*): Chairperson Julie Noble provided a report on Water Dept purchase of a third electric vehicle. As was discussed at previous meetings, two Chevy Volts were purchased for Police and Fire Dept. The goal is to have 20% of the City's fleet be electric by 2020. Link to Freeman article regarding Chevy Volt purchases:
<http://www.dailyfreeman.com/general-news/20160924/kingston-adds-two-hybrid-vehicles-to-its-fleet>
- ii. **National Drive Electric Week Recap** (*B. Broad*) Commissioner Betta Broad provided a report on the September 17 Sustainable Saturday electric vehicle event.

e. Materials Management

- i. **Plastic Bag Law update** Chairperson Julie Noble indicated that the Kingston Conservation Advisory Council is deferring to Ulster County on recommendations for plastic bag legislation. Stores which provide plastic bags are now required to accept them as returns for recycling.
- ii. **Solid Waste Management Improvement Commission** (*J. Noble*): Chairperson Julie Noble provided a brief update with commission full recommendations to follow at later date.

- f. Sustainable Resource Management: Green Infrastructure in Parking Lots** (*J. Noble*): Chairperson Julie Noble gave a report on GI including possible run off water monitoring devices for the parking sites whether the permeable pavement and storm water capture system is working and whether water is staying on site. The GI work is to be done by Emily Vail, of the NYSDEC as part of a local storm water study.

g. Adaptation and Resilience

- i. **Fall Climate Adaptive Design Studio Update** (*Noble/McEvoy/Hauser*): Chairperson Julie Noble reported on recent meeting with Cornell students involved in the Climate Adaption Design group regarding Island Dock and Block Park. Commissioner Kevin McEvoy provided an update on his separate conference call with the students.
- ii. **Sea Level Rise Implementation Learning Group Update** (*Noble/McEvoy/Hauser*): Meeting scheduled with Consensus Building Institute, Scenic Hudson, and representatives from Kingston, Piermont, Catskill and Stony Point on November 10th at Long Dock Beacon NY.

- IV. Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 6:07 pm by unanimous acclamation. Next meeting is to be held on October 26 at 4:30 PM.